

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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CINCPAC HONOLULU

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CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, TH, US

SUBJ: CHATCHAI CORRECTS THE RECORD ON US/THAI

DISCUSSIONS REGARDING VNAF AND KAF PLANES

FOREIGN MINISTER CHATCHAI CHUNHAWAN GAVE A PRESS CONFERENCE
ON MAY 9 TO REFUTE ERRONEOUS PRESS REPORTS REGARDING HIS MAY
8 MEETING WITH THE CHARGE OVER DISPOSITION OF VNAF AND KAF
AIRCRAFT EVACUATED INTO THAILAND. THE FOLLOWING IS AN INFORMAL
USIS TRANSLATION OF EXCERPTS OF CHATCHAI'S REMARKS RELATING
TO THIS SUBJECT. WE WILL REPORT BY SEPTEL COMMENT ON THIS
PRESS CONFERENCE.

BEGIN EXCERPTS:

"CHATCHAI: I WISH TO MAKE A COMPLAINT. I WAS READING
NEWSPAPERS AND I

REPORTER: WHAT WAS IT ABOUT?

CHATCHAI: ...READ A REPORT STATING THAT AMERICA HAD GIVEN US
AN ULTIMATUM. THIS IS GOING TOO FAR. NO THREAT OR WARNING WHAT-
SOEVER WAS MADE ON THAT SUBJECT.

REPORTER: DIDN'T HE COME TO SEE YOU YESTERDAY?

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CHATCHAI: NO. I ASKED FOR COPIES OF AGREEMENTS CONCLUDED...

AGREEMENTS CONCLUDED BETWEEN AMERICA AND VIETNAM, AND BETWEEN AMERICA AND CAMBODIA...HOW THEY ARE WORDED AND SIGNED... MILITARY AID AGREEMENTS... IN ORDER TO STUDY THEM. THOSE ARE IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS IN ORDER TO DETERMINE TO WHOM THESE ARMAMENTS BELONG. IT IS NECESSARY TO STUDY THOSE DOCUMENTS AND HE BROUGHT THEM TO ME. THAT WAS ALL.

REPORTER: AND HAS ANY DECISION BEEEN REACHED YET AS TO WHOM THEY SHOULD BEONG?

CHATCHAI: THE DOCUMENTS ARE STILL BEING STUDIED. THEY WERE BROUGHT TO ME ONLY YESTERDAY.

REPORTER: THEN WERE TALKS HELD...

CHATCHAI: NO TALKS WERE HELD AT ALL. HE CAME AND GAVE ME THE DOCUMENTS, SAYING THAT THEY ARE THE DOCUMENTS WE WANT. HE BROUGHT THEM AND GAVE THEM TO ME. THAT WAS ALL. THEN NEWSPAPERS WROTE UP A REPORT.

REPORTER: DID MR. MASTERS BRING THEM HIMSELF?

CHATCHAI: YES. THEY ARE DOCUMENTS, SO WHO DO YOU EXPECT TO COME AND BRING THEM?

REPORTER: I THOUGHT A MASSENDER COULD HAV BROUGHT THEM, IF NO NEGOTIATIONS WERE TO BE HELD.

CHATCHAI: NO NEGOTIATIONS WERE HELD AT ALL. GOING AND MAKING SUCH A STATEMENT IS NOT AT ALL GOOD. IT CAN ONLY HAVE REPERCUSSIONS ON FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN AMERICA AND THAILAND, ESPECIALLY SINCE WE HAVE HAD GOOD* FRIENDLY RELATIONS DATING BACK SINCE ANCIENT TIMES. IN THE FOREIGN POLICY STATEMENT WE STATED CLEARLY THAT IN REGARD TO WITHDRAWAL OF MILITARY FORCES, WE WILL HOLD NEGOTIATIONS WITH AMERICA AS FRIENDS, THEREFORE IT IS MUCH BETTER TO SAFEGUARD FRIENDSHIP. PUBLISHING A NEWS REPORT SO SENSATIONALLY, I FEEL... NO TALKS WERE HELD ON ANY SUBJECT AT ALL. HE CAME AND HE GAVE ME THE DOCUMENTS, THEN WE HELD A VERY ORDINARY CONVERSATION ON THIS AND THAT.

REPORTER: TO WHOM WILL RE RETURN THE PLANES WHICH ARE PARKED IN U-TAPAO?

CHATCHAI: THAT DEPENDS ON THE LAW. IT CONCERNS THE LAW.

REPORTER: ABOUT HOW LONG WILL THE STUDY TAKE?

CHATCHAI: IT WILL TAKE SOME TIME. SINCE INTERNATIONAL LAW IS CONCERNED, WE CANNOT MAKE A DECISION EASILY AND SPEEDILY. THE DOCUMENTS MUST BE STUDIED CAREFULLY AND THOROUGHLY. I MUST REQUEST YOU ALL TO COOPERATE BY PUB- UNCLASSIFIED

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LISHING THESE STATEMENTS I AM MAKING NOW. IT IS NOT AT ALL APPROPRIATE, BECAUSE OF THE POSITION AMERICA IS IN AT PRESENT, FOR US TO PILE INSULTS ON IT IN ANY WAY AT ALL. MAKING ACCUSATIONS AND ALLEGATIONS AND PILING INSULTS THIS WAY WILL DESTROY FRIENDSHIP FOR NO JUSTIFIABLE REASON WHATSOEVER. OUR FRIENDSHIP WITH AMERICA HAS ALWAYS BEEN EXCELLENT. PUBLISHING A REPORT STATING IT HAS COME AND GIVEN US AN ULTIMATUM, OR SOMETING LIKE THAT, COULD ONLY CAUSE MISUNDER-

STANDING TO THE THAI PEOPLE, AND MAKE THEM FEEL PUZZLED,
WONDER, AND RESENTMENT AT AN ULTIMATUM HAVING BEEN GIVEN US.
IT IS THE TRUTH THAT NO TALKS WERE HELD AT ALL. HE CAME
TO GIVE ME COPIES OF AGREEMENTS ONLY. WE MET FOR A FEW MINUTES.
REPORTER: DID HE MEET YOU FOR A LONG TIME?
CHATCHAI: FOR ONLY A FEW MINUTES, NOT FOR LONG..
FOR ABOUT 15 OR 20 MINUTES AT MOST.
REPORTER: THE U.S. DEFENSE SECRETARY HAS STATE THAT
ALL PLANES HAVE BEEN TAKEN AWAY ALREADY.
CHATCHAI: NOT ALL. THEY ARE STILL PARKED THERE IN A VERY
LARGE NUMBER, FILLING THE AIRFIELD TO CAPACITY.
REPORTER: THE PLANES LEFT ARE UNUSABLE AND DAMAGED.
CHATCHAI: WHO WOULD WANT UNUSABLE PLANES*
REPORTER: THAT WAS A STATEMENT MADE BY THE U.S.
DEFENSE DEPARTMENT.
CHATCHAI: I DON'T KNOW. HOW COULD PLANES WHICH ARE
DAMAGED HAVE BEEN FLOWN AND COME HERE?
REPORTER: DO YOU THINK THAT CONFLICTING STATEMENTS HAVE
BEEN MADE BY OUR DEFENSE MINISTRY AND OUR FOREIGN AFFAIRS
MINISTRY?
CHATCHAI: THERE IS NO CONFLICT OR DIFFERENCE OF VIEW
WITH ANYBODY IN THE DEFENSE MINISTRY.
REPORTER: OUR DEFENSE MINISTRY?
CHATCHAI: I DON'T KNOW.
REPORTER: I FEEL THAT STATEMENTS DO NOT COORDINATE,
IN MATTERS CONCERNING FOREIGN AFFAIRS.
CHATCHAI: HE IS THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE. DO YOU
WANT OUR DEFENSE MINISTER TO BE A WEAK MAN?
REPORTER: YOU SHOULD BE OF THE SAME VIEW IN PARTY POLICY.
CHATCHAI: WHY? WHAT ABOUT PARTY POLICY? I AM IN
THE UNITED PARTY.
REPORTER: MEANING GOVERNMENT POLICY?
CHATCHAI: I APPEAL TO YOU ALL NOT TO PUBLISH ANYTHING
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TOO SENSATIONAL REGARDING AMERICA AND THAILAND. YOU SHOULD...
REPORTER: WILL THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL TAKE THIS
ISSUE UP FOR CONSIDERATION?
CHATCHAI: THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL? THE PRIME
MINISTER STATED ONCE BEFORE THAT IF SUBJECTS DISCUSSED BY
THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL ARE DISCLOSED, IT MEANS
IMPRISONMENT.
MASTERS

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